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ALASKA

COMMITTEES:  
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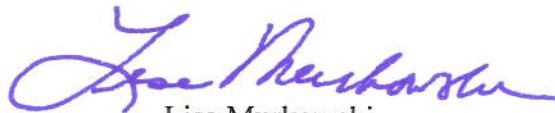
Dear Julie:

Thank you for your letter requesting congressional hearings regarding the ongoing subsistence issues facing Alaska Natives. I would like to inform AFN that I am working with my colleague, Chairman Wyden of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to schedule an official oversight hearing to address subsistence issues in Alaska in the fall of 2013 in Washington, D.C.

I understand your request also included the scheduling of field hearings in Bethel and within the Ahtna region of Alaska. As you know, the threat of sequestration on March 1, 2013 has limited the budgets of our Congressional Committees and their planning efforts. Travel budgets have been significantly diminished. Recognizing the importance of hearing voices from rural Alaska, I would like to host a listening session in Bethel in April, 2013, as well as a listening session in the Ahtna region in May, 2013 to ensure voices from rural Alaska are heard. Further, this will give me an opportunity to hear directly from Alaskans in rural areas so I am better able to plan the official oversight hearing in Washington, D.C.

I would like to move forward with scheduling in respective regions and my office will be in contract with AFN to discuss the scheduling of these worthwhile events. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator